



CENTRAL ST MATTHEW
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Bringing New Orleans Together

Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost
October 4th | 10 am



**“Actions Speak Louder
Than Words!”**

Rev. Peter Scie

Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ
Order of Service

Season of Pentecost

October 4, 2026

(At the asterisk*, all who are able, please stand. Congregation responses are in **bold**)

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

“Marche Triomphale”

by Bruce Steane

Lighting of Candles

Acolyte

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Curry Miller

Leader: We gather to worship the God whose love is revealed through compassion and justice.

People: We come with open hearts, ready to hear and respond to God's call.

Leader: God calls us beyond words of faith into lives of faithful action.

People: May our worship inspire us to love, serve, and seek justice.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who calls us into the vineyard!

All: We come ready to worship, ready to grow, and ready to serve. Amen!

***Opening Hymn**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

AAHH #329

***Invocation**

Gracious and loving God, we gather in your presence with grateful hearts. Open our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to your compassion. May our worship deepen our commitment to justice, strengthen our capacity to love, and inspire us to serve our neighbors. Remind us that faith is not merely what we profess but what we practice. Transform us through your Spirit so that our lives reflect your steadfast love. Amen.

Anthem

“This Day”

Traditional
(Tru Jones, mezzo-soprano;
Juliana Starr, mezzo-soprano)

Scripture Reading

The Psalter

Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Children's Sermon

"Don't Just Say It—Show It!"

Rev. Peter Scie

(All the children are invited to come forward as all sing)

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread & cup, prayer & song: This is where children belong.**

Call to Reconciliation

Beloved, we are invited to examine the distance between the love we proclaim and the love we practice. Sometimes we say yes to God's call but hesitate when that call requires us to act. Yet God's grace meets us with opportunities to begin again. Trusting in that grace, let us confess together.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that our words have not always reflected our actions. We have spoken of love while withholding compassion. We have prayed for justice while remaining comfortable with injustice. We have celebrated your welcome while sometimes failing to make room for others. Forgive us when our faith becomes more concerned with appearances than with the well-being of our neighbors. Renew our hearts, transform our understanding, and give us courage to put our faith into action. Amen.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! The God who calls us is also the God who offers us grace. Like the first son in Jesus' parable, we can change our minds, change our direction, and begin again. In God's steadfast love, we are forgiven, renewed, and empowered to live differently. **Thanks be to God! May our lives become a witness to God's transforming love. Amen!**

***Passing of Peace**

Please turn to your neighbor and say "The Peace of Christ be with you," and respond, "And also with you."

***Pulpit Hymn**

"All I Need Is You"

TFWS #2080

Sermon

"Actions Speak Louder Than Words!"

Rev. Peter Scie

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Call to Communion

The Words of Institution

The UCC Statement of Faith

Insert

The Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Special Music

"O How He Loves You and Me"

TFWS #2108

All are welcome at the table!

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Offering

Offertory Sentence

Matthew 5:16

"Your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven."

Offertory

"You Can't Beat God Giving"

AAHH #671

*Doxology

NCH #781

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.**

*The Closing Hymn

"As You Go, Tell the World"

AAHH #633

Carrying of the Light into the World

Acolyte

*Parting Hymn

"Bind Us Together"

TFWS #2226

(Please join the Circle of Friendship)

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one king. There is only one body.
That is why we sing. Bind us together...**

*Benediction

Organ Postlude

"Now Thank We All Our God"

by George Friedrich
Kaufmann

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God

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